

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 COME-00 PM-05
NSF-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
EPA-01 DLOS-09 SMI-01 INT-05 /065 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB
-----041044 131445Z /75

O R 131411Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TOCY, SENV, PLOS, UR, US

SUBJECT: R/V WESTERN VIKING CLEARANCE REQUEST, 15 JUNE -
20 JULY 1978

REF: (A) MOSCOW 13425 (B) STATE 146742 (C) STATE 125279

1. REGARDING CHARTLET, REFTEL C STATES IT MAY BE NECES-
SARY TO COME WITHIN 2 MILES OF THE SOVIET COAST NEAR THE
CHUKOTSKIY PENINSULA. CHARTLET DEPICTS AREA OF PRIMARY
RESEARCH TO WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE COAST WHICH DOES NOT
DISCOUNT REQUIREMENT TO COME WITHIN 2 MILES IF NECESSARY.
IF QUESTIONED ON THIS DEPT WOULD RECOMMEND RESPONDING BY
SAYING RESEARCHERS THOUGHT THERE WAS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY
THAT SHIP WOULD HAVE TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AS CLOSE AS 2
MILES OFF THE SOVIET COAST AND THEREFORE REQUEST WAS

MADE TO WORK WITHIN TERRITORIAL WATERS. CAPTION REFERRED
TO PRIMARY AREA OF RESEARCH.
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2. SINCE IT APPEARS THE SOVIETS CONSIDER THE RESEARCH TO
FALL WITHIN CATEGORY OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES RESEARCH A
DENIAL WOULD APPLY TO 200 MILE ZONE UNLESS OTHERWISE
STATED. BEST APPROACH NOW WOULD BE TO WAIT FOR SOVIET
RESPONSE DUE BY 15 JUNE BEFORE PURSUING.

3. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 4 IS VALID AND WILL BE CONSIDERED. ONE FACTOR TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IS THAT BOTH U.S. REQUESTS WERE SUBMITTED WITH SHORT LEAD-TIMES, WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED LEAVES THEM WITH INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR ACQUIRING CLEARANCES AND TO PLAN PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH. THE WESTERN VIKING REQUEST WAS ONLY SUBMITTED WITH 30 DAYS LEAD-TIME AND THE AERIAL SURVEY HAD ONLY 8 DAYS LEAD-TIME. HOWEVER, THE RECOMMENDATION HAS MERIT AND WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AFTER THE SOVIETS REPLY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OCEANOGRAPHY, PORT CLEARANCES, WESTERN VIKING R/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE149407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WERB:MJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-1073
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780664/aaaacdmf.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 384b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 13425, 78 STATE 146742, 78 STATE 125279
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2371221
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V WESTERN VIKING CLEARANCE REQUEST, 15 JUNE - 20 JULY 1978
TAGS: TOCY, SENV, PLOS, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/384b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014